



The Exchange

 **BIG SKY
CARE CONNECT**
Montana's Premier Health Information Exchange

December 2, 2020 | Issue #5

Upcoming Events

November 18 - December 15

[BSCC ED Alerts Webinars](#)

December 1 - 2

[BHAM Training: Case Management to Care Coordination](#)

BSCC First Annual Conference **Creating Care Connections**

Thank you to those who were able to attend the Big Sky Care Connect (BSCC) First Annual Conference! If you attended the Conference and would like to watch the Conference sessions, login to the Conference platform with the email you registered with [here](#). If you were not able to join us, you can watch the entire Conference by going to the BSCC [YouTube channel](#).

[Watch Conference Recordings](#)

Welcome to Big Sky Care Connect!

Supporting Montana with Real-Time Health Information.

As the COVID-19 pandemic is entering into a second wave, the remote nature of Montana requires a robust, seamless technology solution for the coordination of care and effective public health response. The state of Montana, the [Montana Hospital Association](#), [Collective Medical](#), and [Big Sky Care Connect](#) want to promote real-time event notification alerting and care collaboration solutions which are a key part in emergency preparedness for the current and any future infectious disease outbreaks. In collaboration with MHA and Collective Medical, BSCC is urging Montana hospitals with emergency departments to take advantage of this funding opportunity for two (2) years of BSCC ED Alerts at no cost.

For those healthcare facilities without an ED, BSCC provides services to support every facility in the healthcare continuum. By joining the BSCC HIE network, treating providers will have access to a comprehensive, longitudinal patient record in real-time. In addition, BSCC Patient Event Notifications are one of the offered HIE core services. Patient Event Notifications are real-time alerts when your patient has an admit, discharge, or transfer. For those who have not yet joined, please consider joining the BSCC HIE network and getting in the onboarding queue to take full advantage of the funding available. Funding to cover the cost of onboarding and implementation will only be available until September of 2021. To learn more or to sign up to become a participant today, please contact the BSCC team at information@mtbscc.org or call 406-422-1078.

Be sure to follow BSCC on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube for more updates and information!

Jean Branscum, CAO
Big Sky Care Connect
jean@mmaoffice.org



Big Sky Care Connect Held First Annual Conference November 5th, Virtually

Thursday, November 5th, Big Sky Care Connect (BSCC) hosted their First Annual Conference. Held virtually, the event was kicked off by Jean Branscum, Acting CAO of BSCC, and CEO of MMA, and John Felton, Board Chair of BSCC, Yellowstone County Public Health Officer, and Chief Executive Officer of RiverStone Health. John Felton expressed the need for a modern solutions to bring connected, patient-centered care to Montana.



"It is past time to throw away the fax machines and the days of wait, and instead be able to access vital medical records securely using the BSCC technology," said Felton. "We deserve better and our patients deserve the best!"



Tom Novak, Medicaid Interoperability Lead, Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT, was the Keynote Speaker setting the tone of the event. Standing up an HIE is not an easy feat. "Montana is doing it the right way," he explained when discussing the diligent planning and building of Montana's statewide HIE, Big Sky Care Connect.

There is an urgency to join the HIE and build the actionable data repository that will be available to BSCC participants. "There is only a little over a year left for CMS to fund onboarding," Novak said, "The financial process would be better right now."

8:30 – 8:45

John Felton, Riverstone Health & Jean Branscum, BSCC

Welcome and Opening Remarks

8:45 – 10:15

Tom Novak, Medicaid Interoperability Lead, Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT

15-minute break

10:30 – 12

Track 1: Leadership
Leading Care Connections
Jean Branscum, BSCC
Shaun Alfreds, Maine HealthInfoNet
David Mark, MD, Big Horn Valley Health Center
Jason Spring, Kalispell Regional Healthcare
Faron Thompson, Innovation Care Partners
Randy Thompson, MD, Billings Clinic

Track 2: Clinical | Patient Care
Innovations in Clinical Care
Curt Swenson
Dennis Sulser, Youth Dynamics
Russell Leftwich, MD, InterSystems

Track 3: Technology | Health Info Mgt
Let's Talk Onboarding!
Jason Webster, HealthTech Solutions
Kevin Ferriter, InterSystems
Jim Mallowney, Billings Clinic
Swetha Nalakondo, HealthTech Solutions

Lunch: 60-minute break

1 – 2:30

Track 1: BSCC Solution Demonstrations
BSCC Project Update
HIE Platform - InterSystems
Medication History - DrFirst
ED Alerts - Collective Medical

Track 2: Clinical | Patient Care
Investing in Community Health
Merry Hutton, Providence Health
Lenette Kosovich, Rimrock Foundation
Mary Windecker, BHAM
Toni Wood & Earl Sutherland, MT PCA

Track 3: Technology | Health Info Mgmt
Keep it Secret, Keep it Safe
Justin Cole, Garlington, Lohn & Robinson
Deb Anderson, Mountain Pacific Quality Health

15-minute break

2:45 – 4:15

Track 1: Panel Discussion
HIE Value During Disasters and Pandemics
Kim Chaundy, Geisinger Health System
Martin Ciccocioppo, PA Dept of Human Services
Phil Beckett, PhD & Jim Hoag, HASA HIO

Track 2: BSCC ED Alerts Program
Connecting MT Hospitals Now
Montana Hospital Association
Collective Medical
BSCC Outreach Team

4:15 – 4:30

Closing Remarks

4:30 – 5:30

Questions and Answers with BSCC Project Team

To learn more or to sign up contact BSCC at information@mtbscc.org or call 406-422-1078.

Click to view Conference recordings

BIG SKY CARE CONNECT

Participants

27

including Hospitals, FQHCs, Behavioral Health, Long Term Care, Specialty Clinics, & Payors

The graphic features a blue background with white and green text. On the left, there are four icons: a hospital building, a nurse with a clipboard, a doctor with a stethoscope, and a shield with a cross. The number '27' is prominently displayed in the center with radiating lines around it.

Shared HOPES

Hospital Optimized Pandemic Electronic Solution

Shared HOPES is a statewide technology and care-collaboration solution implemented by the Montana Hospital Association (MHA) through funding from the Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR). The objective of this program is to prepare Montana health care stakeholders to mitigate the effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and future infectious disease outbreaks.

- **Solution:** Real-time event notification alerting technology and care-collaboration solutions for emergency preparedness
- **Platform and Care Coordination Network of Choice:** Collective Medical, made available through Big Sky Care Connect (BSCC)
- **Collaboration:** Hospitals in Montana, including MHA and BSCC, will work together to implement BSCC ED Alerts at every hospital in the state

BSCC, MHA, and Collective Medical will be hosting educational webinars for Montana emergency departments (ED) and their leadership to learn more. We are encouraging all Montana EDs to take advantage of this funding now to provide support during the COVID-19 pandemic.

To learn more or sign up contact BSCC at information@mtbscc.org or call 406-422-1078.

BSCC ED Alerts Webinars

Shared HOPES program flyer

BSCC ED Alerts

BSCC Webinar

Billings Community Roundtable: Creating Care Connections

Access to patient information is essential to providing optimal care across multiple settings. The Big Sky Care Connect (BSCC) health information exchange (HIE) provides access to comprehensive, real-time health information on your patients in the communities you serve. Timely sharing of vital patient information will promote more informed decision making at the point of care. Informed decision making supports the effective delivery of care and can help avoid readmissions and adverse events, coordinate care planning, improve diagnoses, decrease duplicate testing, and avoid redundant services. The BSCC HIE eliminates healthcare information gaps to improve Montanans' health.

Key take-a-ways:

- What is the BSCC HIE?
- Why is the BSCC HIE important to Billings Healthcare?
- How will BSCC facilitate coordination and transitions of care?
- How will BSCC support Billings providers and patients?

Objectives:

- Create a common understanding of BSCC through education on current and future functionalities of BSCC.
- Identify health information needs in the community.
- Give the Billings Community a voice in how BSCC will impact the community.

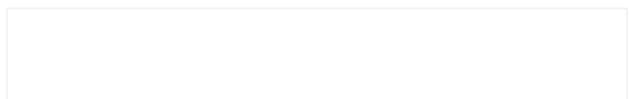
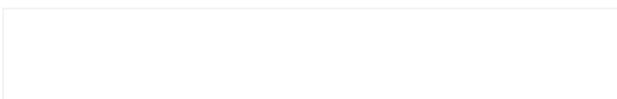
Panelist:

- Judi Powers, Advanced Care Hospital
- Kristi Gatrell, Big Horn Hospital Association
- Lenette Kosovich, Rimrock Treatment Center
- Dr. David Mark, Bighorn Valley Health Center
- John Felton, RiverStone Health
- Dr. Randy Thompson, Billings Clinic

BSCC will continue to hold community meetings around Montana to educate and facilitate partnerships.

View Billings Roundtable

HIE Industry News





How Public Health Crises Enhanced Health Information...

California has had its share of public health crises in 2020. From the spread of wildfires across the state to the second-highest number of COVID-19 cases in the country, a robust health data exchange proved crucial,...

[Read more](#)
ehrintelligence.com



Exploring 3 Levels of Health Information Exchange, Data...

Adequate and seamless health information exchange is an evergreen problem in healthcare, the adverse consequences of which are well-documented. Poor data access can lead to patient safety issues, delays in care access, and...

[Read more](#)
ehrintelligence.com



HHS Releases Final 2020-2025 Federal Health IT Strategic ...

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published the final 2020-2025 Federal Health IT Strategic Plan after accumulating roughly 100 public comments and taking recommendations by over 25 federal organizations....

[Read more](#)
ehrintelligence.com

Interested in Joining BSCC

Health Facilities & Providers

Interested in participating in Montana's HIE to gain access to comprehensive patient information collected from payors and health care organizations across the State? Harness the power of health information by joining BSCC, Montana's premier statewide HIE. Contact BSCC today at (406) 422-1078 or email us at information@mtbscc.org. BSCC was created through 90/10 grant funding and championed by leaders within Montana's healthcare community.

Patients

Become a part of the BSCC Network today by talking to your provider. If your provider's facility participates in the BSCC Network, then you are already in! Being in the network allows providers who are unfamiliar with your history to access to your health information – like during an emergency or when you change or are referred to another provider. Your participation is voluntary, and you can opt out at any time by requesting an opt out from your provider. If you do choose to opt out, first speak with your provider about the benefits or check out our website at mtbscc.org for more information. Montana's statewide HIE enhances the quality of care while empowering patients to play an active role in their healthcare.

Contact BSCC

Harnessing the power of healthcare information to create healthy Montana communities.

This project is funded in whole or in part under a Contract with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. The statements herein do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Department.



**BIG SKY
CARE CONNECT**

Big Sky Care Connect
www.mtbscc.org | 406-422-1078

